

tivity reported ($p < 0.001$). 31.8% of the population with very sensitive skin, 18.7% with sensitive skin, 7.0% with slightly sensitive skin and 5.1% with non sensitive skin also presented with a dermatological condition. Those with dermatosis more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin (64.9% versus 26.8%, $p < 0.001$). A history of childhood atopic dermatitis or eczema was more frequent in patients with sensitive or very sensitive skin (20.7% versus 8.9%, $p < 0.001$). The interviewees who declared that they had dry or oily skin also significantly more frequently ($p < 0.001$) reported sensitive or very sensitive skin than those with normal skin. **CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study of sensitive skins to be conducted in a representative Swiss population. Thus, slightly less than two million Swiss would appear to have sensitive or very sensitive skin. This is probably a much higher figure than the population spontaneously reporting this condition to a dermatologist. These specialists should therefore systematically ask their patients this question. The non response rate was negligible, which indicates that the term “sensitive skin” is meaningful to the immense majority of people.

PSS19**SENSITIVE SKINS IN GREECE: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

Boussetta S, Taieb C

Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France

OBJECTIVES: To evaluate the perception of skin sensitivity in Greece. **METHODS:** A representative nationwide sample of the Greek population aged 15 and over was taken. The individuals were questioned by telephone and selected as per the quotas method. **RESULTS:** To the question “Do you have sensitive skin”, 23.0% of men and 37.7% of women answered “sensitive” or “very sensitive”. Women had significantly more sensitive skin than men ($p < 0.001$). The no response rate was less than 3%. A total of 37.2% of the population with very sensitive skin, 31.1% with sensitive skin, 14.6% with slightly sensitive skin and 6.9% with non sensitive skin also presented with a dermatological condition. Those with dermatosis more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin ($p < 0.001$). A history of childhood atopic dermatitis or eczema was more frequent in patients with sensitive or very sensitive skin (17.8% versus 10.1%, $p = 0.019$). The interviewees who declared that they had dry or oily skin also significantly more frequently ($p < 0.001$) reported sensitive or very sensitive skin than those with normal skin. In addition, patients who regularly consulted a dermatologist had significantly more sensitive skin ($p < 0.001$). Subjects with sensitive or very sensitive skin reddened more easily for no reason (26.5% versus 10.7%, $p = 0.001$), after exposure to the sun (69.8% versus 56.2%, $p = 0.005$) and in response to an emotional stimulus (56.6% versus 41.5%, $p = 0.002$). **CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study of sensitive skins to be conducted in a representative Greek population. Thus, slightly less than three million Greek people would appear to have sensitive or very sensitive skin. This is probably a much higher figure than the population spontaneously reporting this condition to a dermatologist. These specialists should therefore systematically ask their patients this question. The non response rate was negligible, which indicates that the term “sensitive skin” is meaningful to the immense majority of people.

PSS20**SENSITIVE SKINS IN ITALY: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

Boussetta S, Taieb C

Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France

OBJECTIVES: To evaluate the perception of skin sensitivity in Italy. **METHODS:** A representative nationwide sample of the

Italian population aged 15 and over was taken. The individuals were questioned by telephone and selected as per the quotas method. **RESULTS:** To the question “Do you have sensitive skin”, 51.5% of men versus 57.5% of women answered “sensitive” or “very sensitive”. The no response rate was less than 2.0%. A total of 43.8% of the population with very sensitive skin, 41.7% with sensitive skin, 14.6% with slightly sensitive skin and 0.0% with non sensitive skin also presented with a dermatological condition. Those with dermatosis more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin (85.4% versus 51.2%, $p < 0.001$). A history of childhood atopic dermatitis or eczema was more frequent in patients with sensitive or very sensitive skin (16.1% versus 9.0%, $p = 0.021$). The interviewees who declared that they had dry or oily skin also significantly more frequently ($p = 0.001$) reported sensitive or very sensitive skin than those with normal skin. Subjects with sensitive or very sensitive skin reddened easily after exposure to the sun (67.9% versus 54.8%, $p = 0.003$) and in response to an emotional stimulus (64.0% versus 54.7%, $p < 0.039$). **CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study of sensitive skins to be conducted in a representative Italian population. Thus, slightly more than 27 million Italians would appear to have sensitive or very sensitive skin. This is probably a much higher figure than the population spontaneously reporting this condition to a dermatologist. These specialists should therefore systematically ask their patients this question. The non response rate was negligible, which indicates that the term “sensitive skin” is meaningful to the immense majority of people.

PSS21**ADMINISTRATIVE PREVALENCE OF PSORIASIS IN GERMANY**Schlander M¹, Schwarz O¹, Viapiano M², Bonauer N²¹Institute for Innovation & Valuation in Health Care (InnoVal-HC),Eschborn, Germany, ²Kassenaerztliche Vereinigung

Baden-Wuerttemberg, Karlsruhe, Germany

OBJECTIVES: To determine the age- and gender-specific 12-months administrative prevalence rate of psoriasis in Germany, and to explore physician groups involved in the provision of health care services for these patients. **METHODS:** Data for patients with a diagnosis of psoriasis (L40, ICD-10) were extracted from the Nordbaden claims database, covering the complete subpopulation insured by Statutory Health Insurance (2.238 million lives in 2003; for comparison: total German population insured by SHI in 2003, 70.2 million) in Nordbaden in South-Western Germany (representing 82% of the total regional population). Physician groups involved in health care provision were identified. **RESULTS:** 44,735 patients with a diagnosis of psoriasis were identified in Nordbaden, corresponding to an overall administrative prevalence rate of 2.0% (95% confidence interval [CI], 1.98–2.02%; no difference between males and females). Prevalence increased with age (<20 years [y], 0.56%; 20y–<40y, 1.58%; 40y–<60y, 2.62%; 60y–<80y, 3.09%), except for individuals age 80y or older (2.41%). In the age group 20y–<40y, females were more often affected than males (1.68% versus 1.48%), whereas in the age groups 40y–<60y and 60y–<80y, prevalence rates were higher for males (3.37% versus 2.87% and 2.98% versus 2.21%, respectively). Most diagnoses were reported by dermatologists (55.0% of patients), general practitioners (46.4%) and specialists for internal medicine (18.0%; figures include patients diagnosed by more than one physician). Each of the other physician groups included in the study contributed less than 2% of diagnoses. **CONCLUSIONS:** To the best of your knowledge, this analysis provides for the first time administrative data on the prevalence of psoriasis in a German population. Its findings appear consistent with interna-